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● CONG VOTE SHARE IN HARYANA JUST 0.85% BEHIND BJP, BUT SEAT DIFFERENCE 11
● NC IMPROVES ITS VOTE SHARE BY 2.66%, ADDS 27 SEATS TO ITS 2014 TALLY

BJP 1, CONGRESS 0

'Double-engine' sarkar for 3rd consecutive time

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

HARYANA

DESPITE facing huge anti-incumbency, farmers' unrest, protest by wrestlers and widespread discontent over the Agniveer scheme, the BJP managed to retain power for the third consecutive term in Haryana. No party has won a third consecutive term in the state ever since its inception in 1966. This mandate for the 'double-engine sarkar' could have a bearing on the forthcoming polls in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Delhi.

While the BJP got 48 seats — 8 more than 2019 — and crossed the halfway mark of 46, it was just 0.85% ahead of the Congress in terms of vote share. The Congress had a whopping 11.01% positive swing, yet it could add just six seats to its 2019 tally of 31. The AAP scored a duck but polled 1.79% votes. At hindsight, had the Congress done a deal with AAP, it could have possibly made a winning combination.

Analysts blamed the Congress debacle on its inflighting, flawed ticket distribution and party leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda's undue emphasis on the Jat vote bank, which comprises almost 27% of the state's electorate. Sirsa MP and the party's SC face Kumari Selja's animosity with Hooda appears to have played a key role in the party's loss. The Muslim vote bank, however, remained firmly behind the Congress.

Talking to this daily, Dr S S Chahar, former director of the Centre for Haryana Studies in Rohtak, said, "The micro management by the ruling BJP was perfect. Also, the RSS played a vital role in sorting out intra-party differences in the BJP. The migrant and floating votes went to the party. And the BJP vote was silent this time. Besides, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was accessible to the public." The party also managed to get SC votes and the support of women self-help groups in villages.

National Conference gets the right to rule

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

JAMMU & KASHMIR

IN the first assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir after Article 370's abrogation, the National Conference did spectacularly well to bag 42 seats and get the right to form the new government with the Congress, its alliance partner. For all the high-pitched campaign by the BJP, its 'Naya Kashmir' narrative managed to add just four seats, taking its tally to 29.

NC leader Omar Abdullah would be the new chief minister. The Congress performed poorly in the Jammu region, picking up just one of its six seats there — Rajouri (ST). The other five came from the Kashmir valley. CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, who is an ally of NC-Congress, retained his Kulgam seat for the fifth consecutive time. The tally could go up as at least two NC and Congress rebels each contested and won. They are likely to return to their parties.

The NC's strike rate was very high, having contested from just 51 seats. It had a positive swing of 2.66% votes as compared to the last assembly elections in 2014, but in terms of seats it captured 27 more. Besides, the NC and Congress had friendly fights on five seats. Omar's party also won seven seats in the Jammu region.

The election result is a setback for the BJP. Its president in J&K Ravindra Raina lost to NC's Surinder Chodhary from his home constituency in Nowshera in Rajouri.

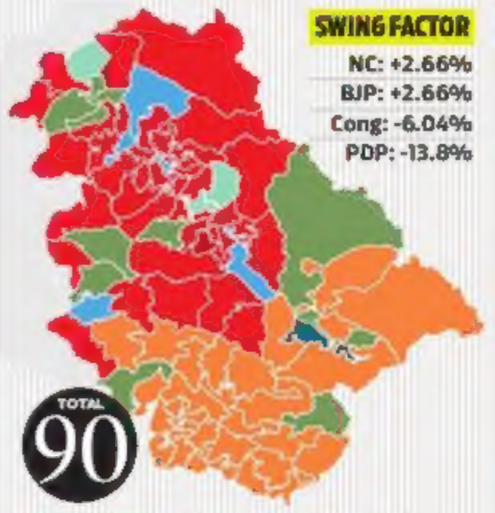
Jubilant NC and Congress workers danced and burst crackers to celebrate their voctory. "The result has shown that the NC is a force to reckon with and can't be crushed," said a party worker Ghulam Ahmed. Omar, who had initially reluctant to enter the assembly poll fray till the restoration of statehood, contested from two seats — Budgam and Ganderbal — and won both.

ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana CM

No surprise expected

Prime Minister Modi praised the leadership of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who is set to retain his chair



Omar Abdullah, National Conference leader

Omar rises from the ashes, set to be CM

NC president Farooq Abdullah announced that his son Omar Abdullah will be the CM, a post the latter held between 2009 and 2014. "The priority of the new government is to fulfill people's expectations," Omar told reporters in Budgam

However, J&K Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra said the CM's post needs to be discussed between the partners

I want to thank the people who gave the verdict in favour of NC-Congress and rejected the August 5, 2019, decision when J&K's special status was abrogated

Farooq Abdullah, NC patriarch

There is unexplained slowdown in updating Haryana results... this allows bad faith actors to spin narratives that undermine the process

Jairam Ramesh, Cong, in letter to EC

There is nothing on record to substantiate your ill-founded allegation of slowdown in updating of results. Your memorandum also does not bring out any contrary facts

EC's sharp response to Jairam Ramesh

The results are disappointing. It will not be business as usual in Haryana and I am sure the Congress high command would identify those who negated the efforts to bring the party to power after 10 years

Kumari Selja, Sirsa Lok Sabha MP

Haryana win a vote for development: Modi

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi and BJP chief JP Nadda at the party HQ in Delhi on Tuesday | PARVEEN KUMAR

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that voters in Haryana chose truth, development, and good governance over negativity and falsehood. Addressing BJP workers at the party headquarters here, Modi said the people accepted the BJP's guarantee of development and rejected the Opposition's pack of lies, giving the saffron party its third consecutive victory in the state. "In the land of Gita, truth and development and good governance have won," he said.

Commenting on the Jammu and Kashmir election results, Modi said they reflect the vibrancy of India's Constitution and democracy while crediting his government for the conduct of peaceful elections there.

Launching a fresh broadside against the Congress, Modi accused the party of helping evil forces that are trying to destroy India by obstructing the country's growth. "Many conspiracies are being hatched globally to weaken India's economy, democracy, and society. Congress and its cronies are part of this game," he alleged.

Modi also alleged that the Congress wants to weaken India by weakening the society and spreading anarchy in the country. "That is why they are provoking different sections, constantly trying to ignite a fire in the names of castes," he alleged, adding that the paty made many attempts to instigate farmers but people saw through its tricks and propaganda and rejected the party.

Modi also claimed that whenever the BJP forms a government in a state, people support it for a long time but the Congress rarely comes back to power as people put a 'no entry' board for the grand old party. "It was 13 years ago that the Congress came back to power in Assam and there are some states where the Congress has not returned to power for 60 years," he said.

Focusing a major part of his speech in targeting the Congress, Modi went on to allege that the oppositon party has been working against the interests of SC/STs and backward classes by trying to provoke them with misleading agenda.

"Today when the Dalits, backward classes, and tribals are reaching top positions, the Congress is nervous," he said.

Physics Nobel goes to John Hopfield & Geoffrey Hinton

The duo won the coveted prize for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionising the way people work and live

DUO LAID FOUNDATION FOR MACHINE LEARNING

"The two Nobel Laureates have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning," the Nobel committee said in a press release. Hinton, 76, who is known as the 'Godfather of artificial intelligence', is a citizen of Canada and Britain who works at the University of Toronto; Hopfield, 91, is a US professor at Princeton University

John Hopfield

Geoffrey Hinton

Built neural networks that mimic brain

Inspired by the workings of the human brain, Hinton and Hopfield built artificial neural networks that can store and retrieve memories like brain and also learn from information fed into them

Hinton made headlines last year when he quit Google and warned about the dangers of machines outsmarting humans in the long run | P9

SEK 11 million

PHYSICS PRIZE CARRIES A CASH AWARD OF 11 MILLION SWEDISH KRONOR ($1 MILLION)

50 senior docs at RG Kar hosp quit

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

AROUND 50 senior doctors of RG Kar Medical College on Tuesday tendered their resignations in solidarity with the medics who have been on a hunger strike demanding action on the 10-point agenda. Their demands include effective security measures in hospitals, better working conditions, and systemic reforms in state-run hospitals.

The doctors said they took the step as "there has been no response from the appropriate authority to solve and to save our children from impending health disaster". They also claimed that medics from other institutions in Kolkata such as SSKM and NRS may follow suit.

Rape FIR lodged against Cong MLA Vinay Kulkarni

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

A 34-year-old woman filed a complaint with Sanjaynagar police in the city on Tuesday accusing Dharwad Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni of raping and harrassing her.

Based on her complaint, police filed an FIR naming Vinay Kulkarni as Accused 1 (A1) and his close aide Arjun as Accused 2 (A2).

According to the complaint, the woman met the MLA in 2022. The MLA got her phone number from a farmer and began calling her, sometimes even at night. After some months, he allegedly made a video call while being naked and forced her to go to his house in Hebbal. When she refused, a gang of rowdies threatened her with dire consequences if she did not go to the MLA's house, she alleged.

In April, the MLA called her to Belagavi, where he hugged her and allegedly tried to sexually abuse her. But he let her go when some people came to meet him.

On August 24, when she went to meet the then CM Basavaraj Bommai, the MLA forced her to go to his house. She took an autorickshaw to his house. CONTINUED ON: P5

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